



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPENDENTS EDUCATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: DEC Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2005

On June 22, 2005, the Dependents Education Council (DEC) met at the Webb Building at 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. The meeting was hosted and chaired by the Honorable Charles Abell, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. A listing of attendees is attached.

DEC MEETING OVERVIEW:

Mr. Abell provided opening comments, introduced Mr. Bill McCarty and Ms. Sally Richmond from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGS), and Ms. Judy Crane from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). Both agencies have employees with dependents in our schools. Following these introductions, he asked the DEC members to introduce themselves.

Dr. Joseph D. Tafoya, Director, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and Executive Secretary, DEC, opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda items to be presented.

There were no changes or corrections offered to the November 4, 2004 DEC Minutes.

The meeting proceeded with discussions and briefings of previous DEC issues.

These included:

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS:

Power Of One

Dr. Elizabeth Middlemiss, Associate Director for Education and Principal Deputy, presented the "Power of One" which documented the culmination of activities of DoDEA students at Camp Lejeune, who participated in a tenth grade English/History honors course. Each student engaged in a research project to study a famous person in history, synthesize and analyze what they learned, and adopt the character of that person. The

film captures the students in costumes, impersonating their historical characters and interacting with each other as those characters.

Dr. Middlemiss stated that a ninth grade honors course will be implemented during the next school year.

(Item Closed)

Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary (DDESS) Transfer Study Update

Mr. John Molino, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, provided the background on the Transfer Study. He reminded the group that 70% of military dependents live off base and are not eligible to attend DDESS Schools. Mr. Molino explained the study is currently on hold and that no decisions regarding the study recommendations will be made until after the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) has been adopted in the fall. Mr. Abell and Mr. Molino answered questions and heard comments from the group. Mr. Abell assured the group that no actions will be taken until DEC members have been informed.

(Item Open)

Teacher Transfer Update

Dr. Tafoya presented a status report on the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) Teacher Transfer Program. He explained that the purpose of the program is to allow teachers the opportunity to move or transfer to DoDDS schools in other areas. The European Command (EUCOM) has expressed a concern regarding the impact this program has on the number of local hires who are employed. Dr. Tafoya presented the statistics of teacher transfers over the last 3 years. He advised the group that this program will be the vehicle used to assign displaced teachers during transformation, therefore minimizing the number of positions available for local hires. Ms. Irma Finocchiaro, Associate Director for Financial and Business Operations is chairing a standing committee made up of DoDEA directors and the Military Services to examine the impact which transformation will have on the DoDEA workforce resulting from transformation.

Dr. Tafoya expects to have a better idea of the effects of transformation by next year. At the June 2006 DEC, he will provide the group with data comparing the number of teachers currently on staff, by location, with the projected requirement for teachers at those locations in the out-years.

(Item Open)

Summer School

Dr. Middlemiss apprised the group of the expansion of the summer school program for this year. The program, which was targeted at remedial education, was offered last year in support of students in Europe whose parents are deployed. In the interest of equity, DoDEA has expanded this program world-wide this year, using one time funding from P&R. There are currently a total of about 8,000 students enrolled for a cost of about \$3 million. Based on experiences from last year, there is a focus on accountability for student attendance this summer. All summer school students and parents have signed forms stating their intention to attend.

Dr. Middlemiss also reviewed the K-8 summer family learning program and the high school summer school programs that are systemic in DoDEA.

She will report the results of this year's summer school initiatives at the fall DEC meeting.

(Item Open)

Longitudinal Study

Dr. Middlemiss briefed the group on the recent DoDEA visit to the firm conducting the longitudinal study. This meeting resulted in several enhancements to the process, as a result of the group observing the phone surveys in process. She went on to provide the metrics that have been gathered for the baseline year of this study. Discussion from the group centered around further data points that would add clarity to this process and DoDEA's expectations from the data.

A question arose as to what influence the study will have on individual teachers and counselors' performance ratings. Dr. Middlemiss stated that at this point, the survey will not have any impact on teacher and counselors performance ratings. She went on to add that the survey is a sample and does not target individual schools. This program analysis looks at the total high school program itself and not individual pieces of the program. DoDEA will be working with the school superintendents to determine how they might use similar questions in exit surveys to gain additional data on individual schools.

Dr. Tafoya added that the new student data management system would provide further capabilities for linking detailed data to survey results. He stated that he plans to discuss utilizing the survey results to affect change with his Directors in an upcoming meeting.

(Item Open)

Budget Update and DoDEA Budget Process

Ms. Irma Finocchiaro briefed the group on the FY 2005 budget and the unusually high amount of FY 2005 Congressional and OSD reductions. The total DoDEA budget for the year was \$1.621 billion. Ms Finocchiaro explained the program impacts, across areas, from the \$76.6 millions in reductions.

She went on to detail the shortfalls experienced in meeting the costs of Overseas Allowances. With OSD additional funding at \$33.0 million, DoDEA still has a shortfall of \$44.6 million toward meeting this obligation. To cover the remaining shortfall, all available funds were realigned from Headquarters and the Area offices to minimize the impact on the classroom.

Moving forward to discuss Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (SRM), Ms. Finocchiaro informed the group that a large portion of the congressional and OSD reductions were covered with SRM funding. Any year end funding that becomes available will be used to restore the SRM account.

Discussion followed regarding the difficulties of funding a school year calendar from the fiscal year funding schedule.

Budget presentations at the fall DEC will address items going forward for the next year. Members will be solicited for views on the budget issues to be sent forward in the Program Budget process, with the thought of influencing funding in FY 2007. BG MacDonald volunteered to gather a group who will work to determine another method of doing business that can be brought forward for consideration.

Mr. Abell stated that the focus of future budget briefings will be altered to include how budgets going forward should be constructed so that members can share their views about the issues.

(Item Open)

Military Construction (MILCON)

Ms. Finocchiaro continued on with the presentation of the FY 2005 MILCON program totaling \$73.0 million. Additionally, she reviewed the FY 2006 projects scheduled in Europe, Pacific, and DDESS for \$100.5 million.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of planning the placement of new schools on the outer edge of bases to facilitate possible transfer to the local counties. Mr. Abell added that he has been advocating putting all service functions near or outside the gate to provide easier access to military families during times of high security levels.

As a result of the MILCON Prioritization meeting held the previous day the current MILCON program for FY 2007 thru FY 2011 supports all confirmed military restationing; supports enduring installations; consolidates campuses at multiple locations; recapitalizes square footage by replacing old inventory; and satisfies 58% of current MILCON requirements.

(Item Open)

Non-DoD School Program in English Speaking Countries and London Dorm Review

Mr. Mike Lynch, DoDEA Chief of Staff, presented the recommendations regarding eligibility for Non-DoD schools in English speaking countries schools broken out by elementary, middle school, and high school students. There were no objections to implementing the changes. Grandfathering clauses will minimize the impact on students currently attending a private school. Mr. Abell committed to keeping the record open for a few weeks to give DEC members the opportunity to voice an objection to the grandfathering exception as presented. Discussion followed regarding how specific scenarios might be affected by the recommend changes. There was agreement by all members to implement the changes.

Mr. Lynch related that the London Dorm Working Group recommended that, for the time being, the status quo be maintained. Mr. Abell stated the DEC will look at this issue again when more is known about the effects of transformation.

Army continues to have concerns that personnel assigned to English speaking countries who are assigned in positions as "Liaison Officers" will not receive the same tuition paid status as those assigned to a Department of State activity or as an exchange officer.

(Item Open)

Customer Satisfaction Survey 2004/2005

Dr. Tafoya presented the results of the 2005 DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey. In almost all areas, improvements were made. Teachers and students are a captive audience for gathering survey input, so the participation from them is very good. DoDEA would like to increase the number of sponsors responding to the survey. A discussion centered on the possibility of DoDEA teaming with EUCOM and PACOM to conduct surveys in order to minimize the number of surveys going out to sponsors, and therefore, increase the number of sponsor responses. Mr. Abell stressed that the survey instruments are a work in progress.

(Item Open)

Community Strategic Plan

Ms. Taffy Corrigan updated the group on the goals of the Strategic Plan. A final draft of the new plan will be presented at the June 06 DEC meeting. Mr. Abell stressed that Commands and Services should think strongly about making changes to the Strategic Plan. He stated that anything could be put on the table for discussion.

(Item Open)

Accreditation of Schools

Dr. Tafoya presented the accreditation process used in DoDEA schools and administered by North Central Association.

(Item Open)

Reserves Eligibility

Mr. Lynch provided an update on the status of enrollment eligibility for Dependents of Reservists. A tuition waiver has been submitted for final approval and should be ready for signature by Mr. Abell shortly. Mr. Abell stated that this waiver provides the results the DEC wanted and he will sign the packages as soon as they are out of OSD General Counsel.

(Item Open)

APF/NAF and Contractor Eligibility Update

Mr. Lynch provided an update on the status of the proposed legislative change for eligibility to enroll dependents of Appropriated Fund (APF) and Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) employees in DoDDS as space-required, tuition-free.

Mr. Abell stated that this will be done, and that the issue of contractor eligibility will be taken care of at the same time.

(Item Open)

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Eligibility

Mr. Lynch updated the group on the status of enrollment eligibility for minor dependents of foreign military members assigned to SHAPE. Votes are due in at the end of June. Mr. Abell stated that this school will be treated as a carve out that receives special handling.

(Item Open)

Partnership For Peace

Mr. Lynch advised that a proposal has been submitted in Fiscal Year 2007 Unified Legislative and Budget process to authorize dependents of Partnership for Peace and Newly Independent States of the Soviet Union personnel to enroll in DoDDS as space-required, tuition-free. Discussion followed regarding the benefit of this population attending DoDDS.

(Item Open)

Meals Program

Ms. Finocchiaro stated that the draft directive and instruction for Free and Reduced Price Meal Program have been completed and submitted to Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) for editing and publication. Subject to the WHS coordination process, it is anticipated that the directive and instruction will be published prior to the start of School Year 2005-2006.

(Item Closed)

USAFE Proposal to Change School Calendar

Discussion centered around the one time cost that would be associated with the requested change, the concern of alignment with permanent change of station (PCS) plans, and how stateside schools are establishing their calendars.

(Item Closed)

Open Discussion

Dr Tafoya asked the group for updates on planned changes to Military Installations as a result of transformation for the purpose of planning for schools and staff. There was no information forthcoming from the group. Mr. Abell asked that DoDEA be informed at the earliest possible time of any plans for change. Dr. Tafoya stated due to dependencies between some schools that it was important to know of changes soon as possible.

Mr. Abell asked for input and/or closing comments from the group. Mr. Downs stated that the Marine Corps thanks DoDEA for sticking with the APF and NAF issue to resolution.

Final Comments

Mr. Abell expressed his appreciation to the group for attending and participating in the discussions.

Joseph D. Tafoya
Executive Secretary